

Learning to Live • Loving to Learn



# **GEORGE MASON ELEMENTARY WALKABOUT: Existing Conditions, Findings and Recommendations**

July 2017

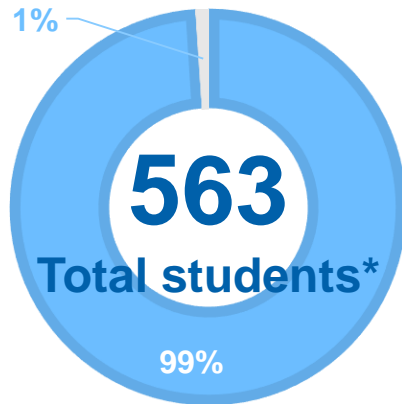
# GEORGE MASON ELEMENTARY WALKABOUT DETAILS

- **Date:** May 3, 2017
- **Observation:** Arrival
- **Participants:**
  - Toole Design Group staff
  - City of Alexandria Transportation Planning staff
  - Alexandria Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee members
  - George Mason PTA President
  - George Mason Administrators
- **Purpose:**
  - Observe school arrival process
  - Evaluate school-zone infrastructure
  - Assess existing Safe Routes to School programming

# OVERVIEW OF GEORGE MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL

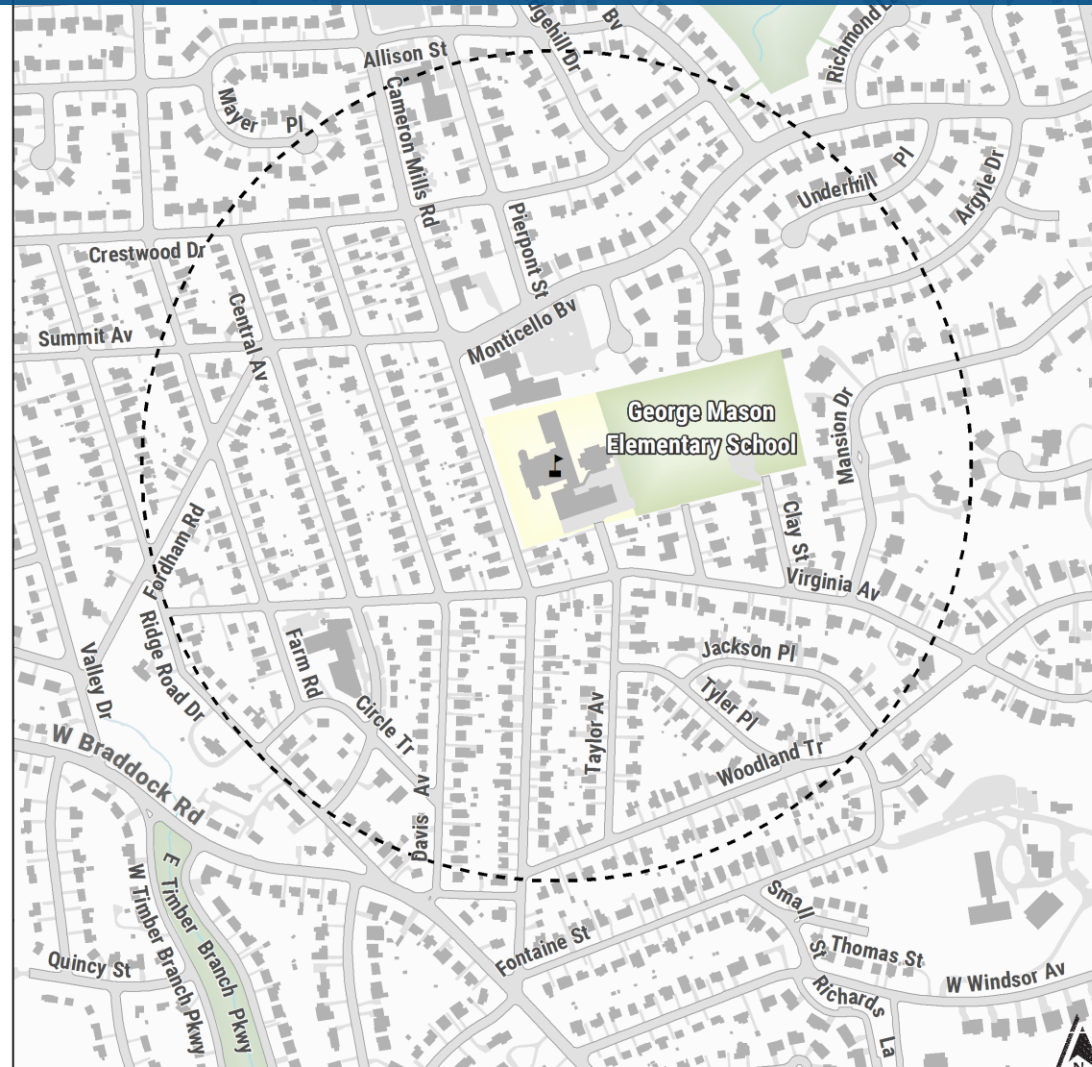
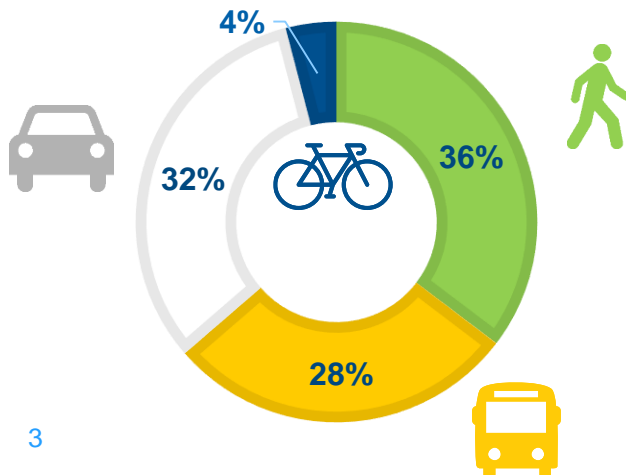
\*As reported in 2016 Parent Survey (n= 60).



■ 1 mile ■ >1 mile

Average of "to school" and "from school" modes as reported in 2016 Student Travel Tallies.

## STUDENT TRAVEL MODES



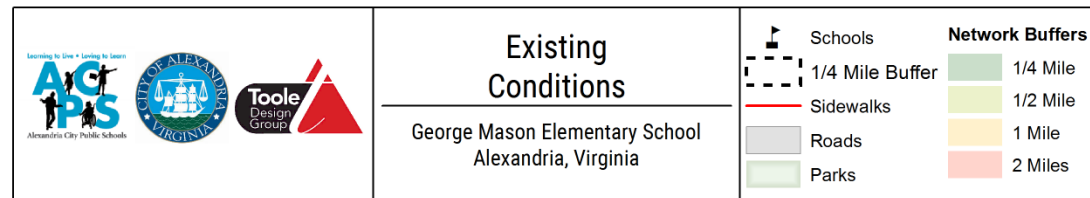
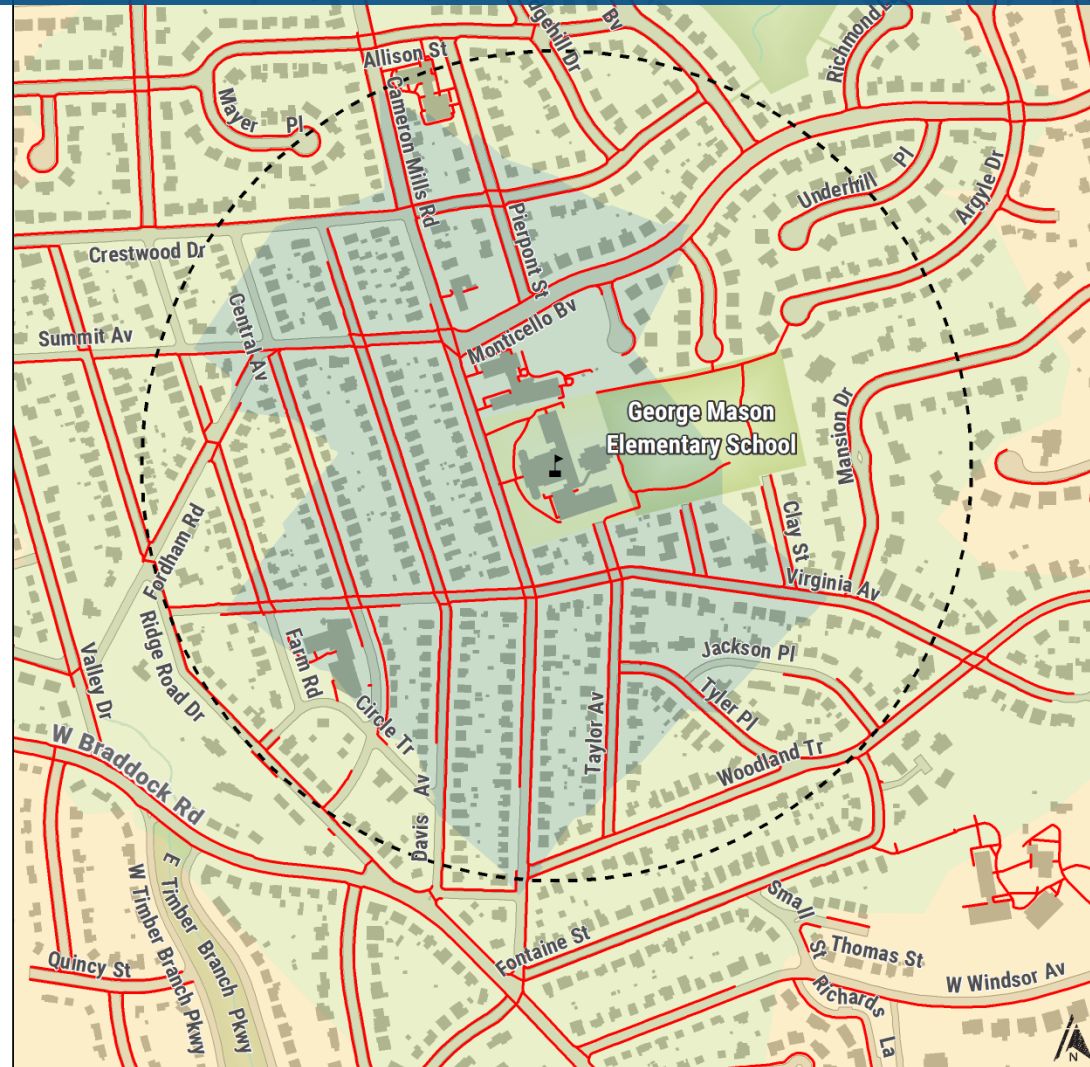
	<p><b>Overview Map</b></p> <p>George Mason Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Schools</li> <li> 1/4 Mile Buffer</li> <li> Parks</li> <li> Roads</li> </ul>
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# STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL DETAIL

Distance	Percentage of Students
¼ mile	33%
½ mile	47%
1 mile	19%
2 miles	0%
>2 miles	1%

As reported in 2016 Parent Survey (n= 60)

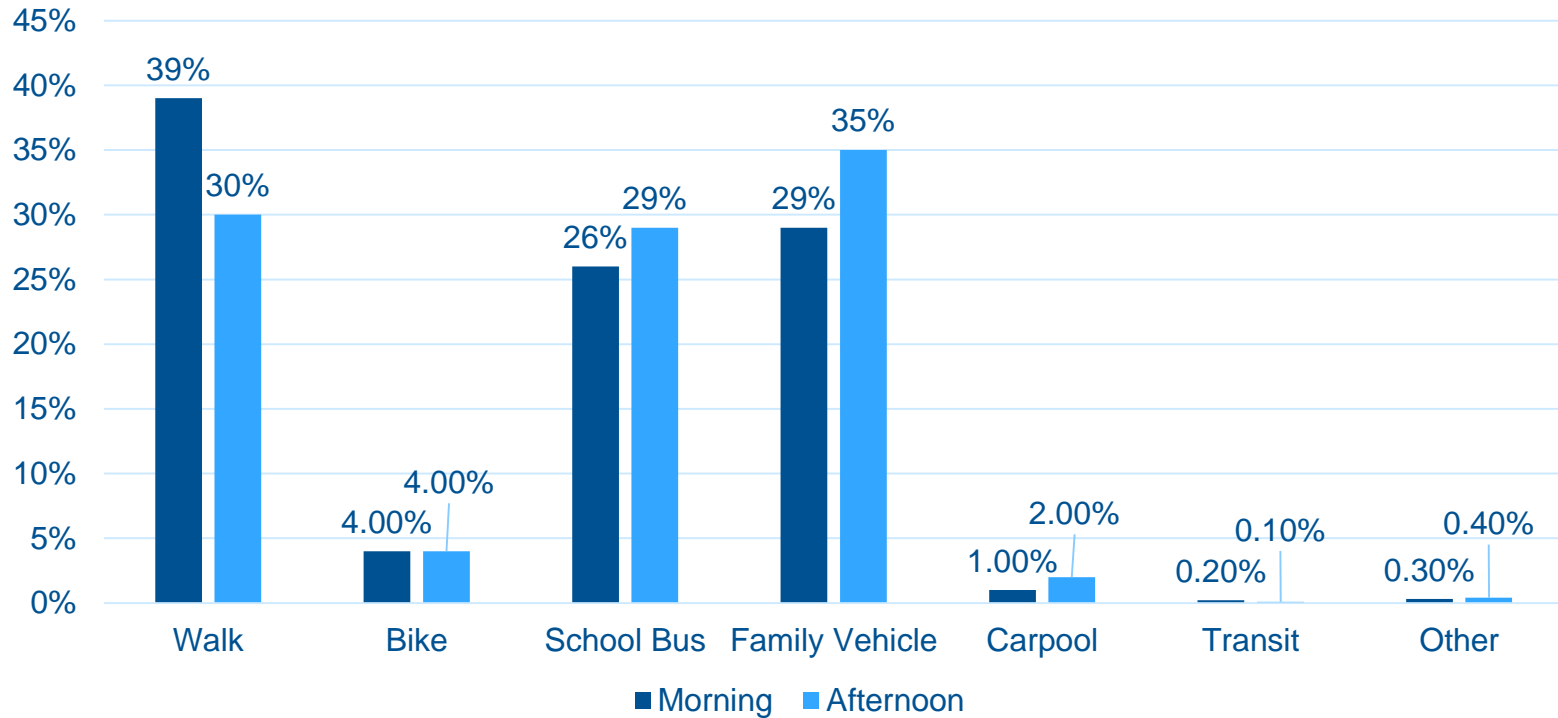
The hollow circle on the map represents the ¼ mile direct distance buffer from the school. The colored polygons show the distance along the road network.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

# TRAVEL PATTERNS

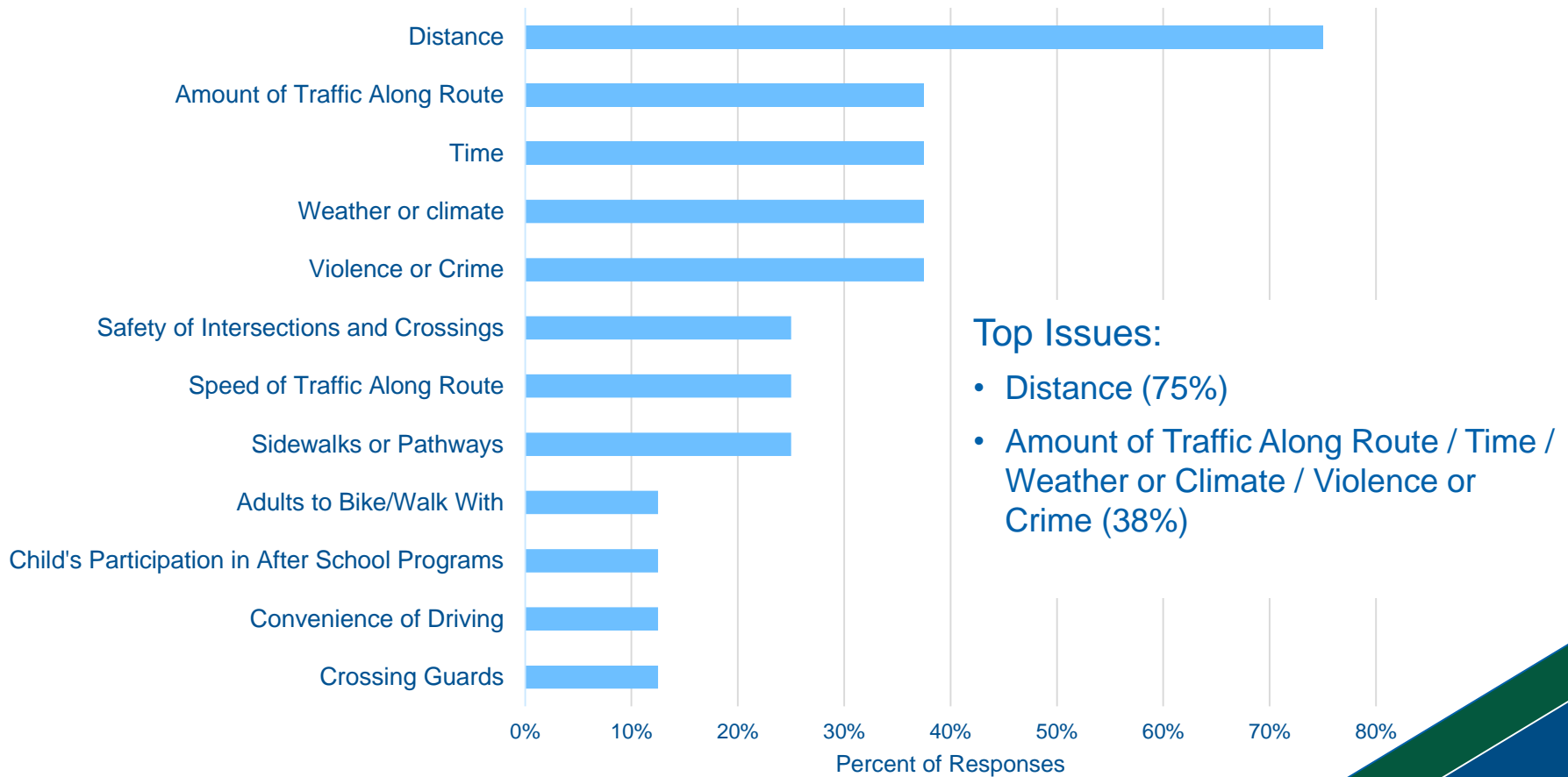
## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



## Fall 2016 Student Travel Tallies

# TRAVEL PATTERNS CONTINUED

Issues reported to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who do not walk or bike to/from school



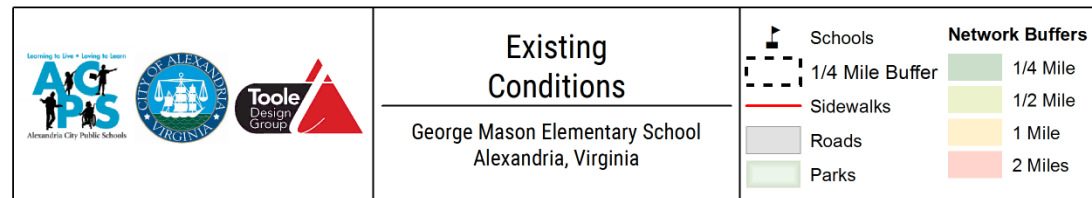
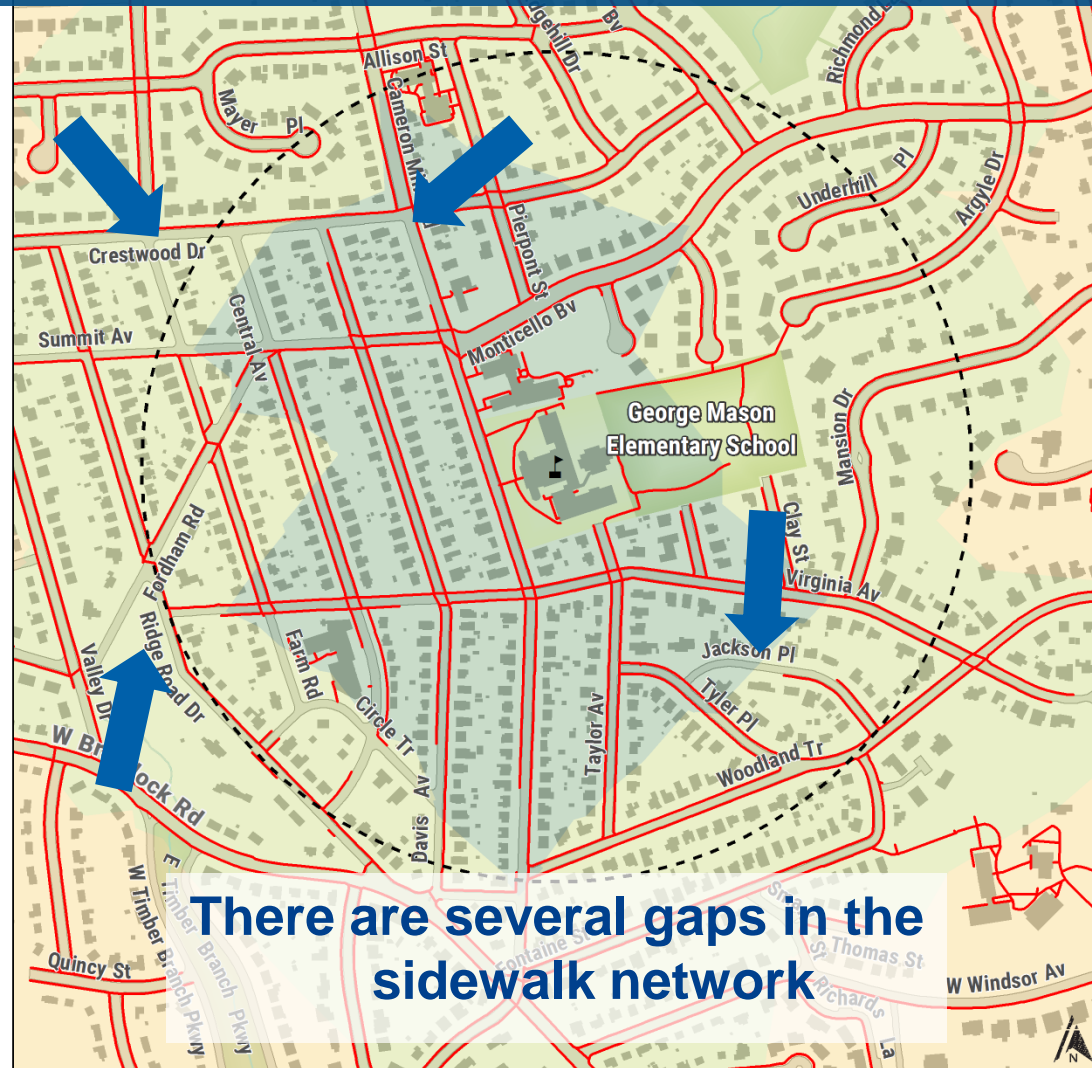
Fall 2016 Parent Survey  
(n= 60)

# PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

**Sidewalks** – Most sidewalks are at least 4 feet wide, and include a buffer from the roadway. Sidewalks are missing in several locations.

**Crosswalks** – Most intersections immediately adjacent to the school have marked crosswalks.

**Curb ramps** – Curb ramps are present at most intersections but many are missing detectable warning surfaces or landing pads.



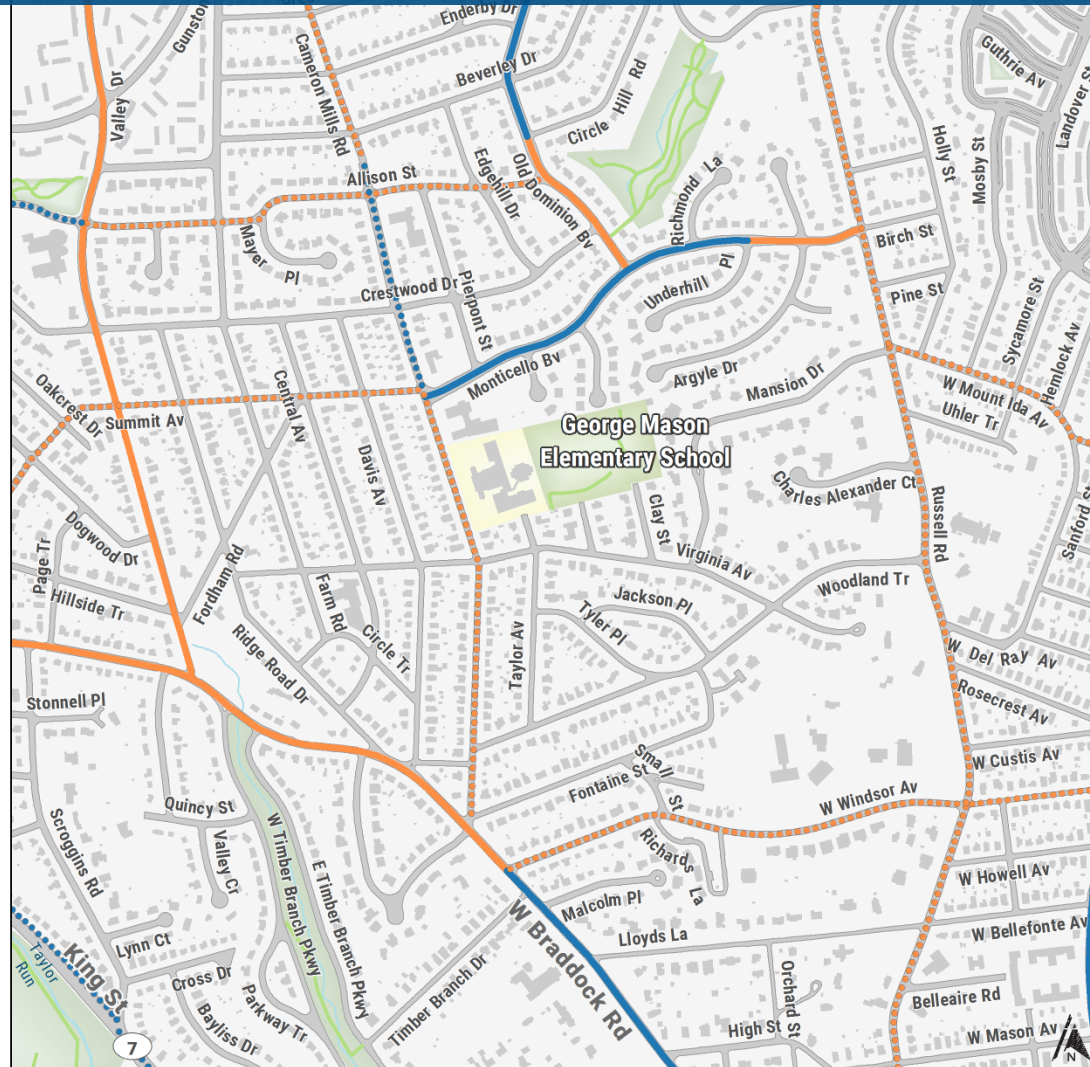
# BICYCLING NETWORK

**Bike Lanes** – Bike lanes are present on Monticello Blvd, Old Dominion Blvd, and W Braddock Rd.


## Shared Roadways –

W Braddock Rd, Valley Dr, and a portion of Monticello Blvd have sharrows.


**Future Bike Lanes** – Bike lanes are slated to go in on Cameron Mills Rd. Shared lane markings are planned for Russell Rd, Cameron Mills Rd, and Summit Ave.



Learning to Grow • Leading the Future




Alexandria City Public Schools



Toole

Design Group




Bicycling  
Infrastructure


George Mason Elementary School  
Alexandria, Virginia

Existing Facilities

 Trail

 Advisory Bike Lane;  
Bike lane


 Climbing Lane

 Shared Lane  
Markings

 Unpaved Nature Trail

Proposed Facilities

 Trail

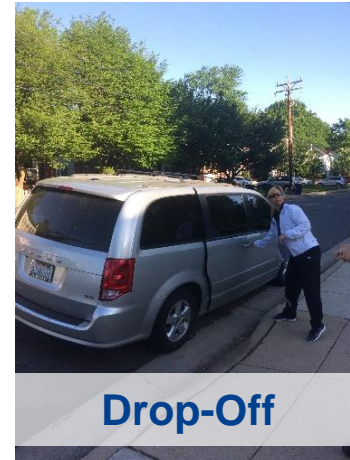
 Shared Roadway

 Enhanced Bicycle  
Corridor

# ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

## Arrival

- Buses and cars drop off directly in front of the main entrance.
- Students who eat breakfast enter the building while those not eating breakfast gather in front of school until doors open.



## Drop-off Zone

- Buses and cars share the curb space directly in front of school.
- The Westminster Presbyterian Church is used as surplus parking for drop-offs. An MOU allows 10 parking spaces to be used by teachers.



# ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

## Cameron Mills Rd

- Buses and cars share the curb space to drop students off. There are no lane markings along Cameron Mills Rd so cars routinely pass those stopped for drop-off. Garbage trucks and DASH buses frequently utilize this road adding to congestion and temporary stoppages.
- School administrators help unload students at the curb, which expedites the unloading process by allowing parents to remain in their car.
- An administrator stands across from the main entrance to prevent parents from dropping off along the western curblane.
- Several cars travelling south made illegal U-turns to reach the drop off.



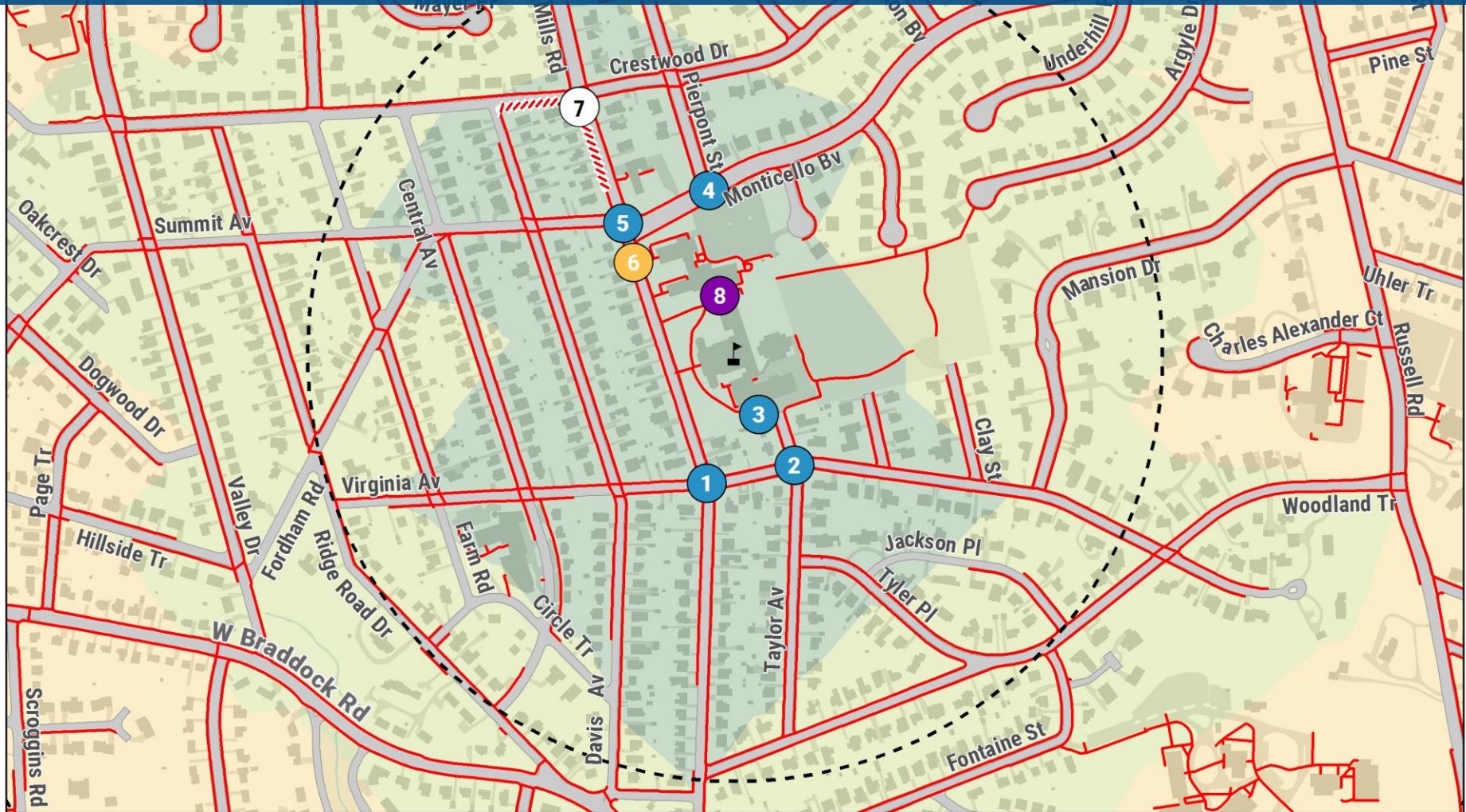
Crossing Guard - Virginia Ave & Cameron Mills Rd

## Crossing Guards

- Virginia Ave & Cameron Mills Rd
- Summit Ave / Monticello Blvd & Cameron Mills Rd

# ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

# INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS MAP

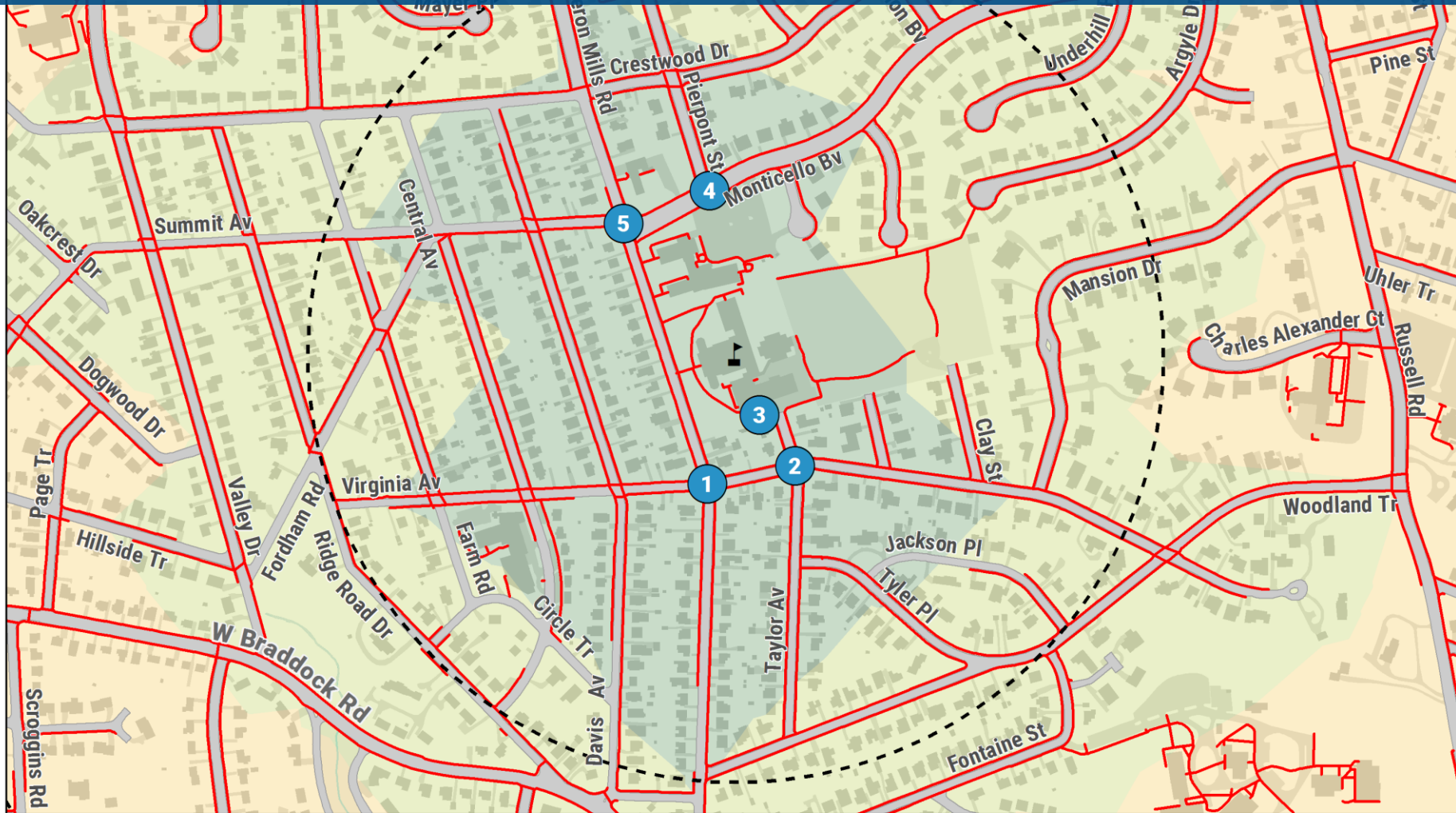


## Infrastructure Recommendations

George Mason Elementary School  
 Alexandria, Virginia

- Intersection Recommendations
- Mid-Block Recommendations
- School Zone Signage Recommendations
- Signalized Intersection Recommendations
- Other Recommendations
- ▬▬▬ Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvement
- 🏫 Schools
- ▬▬▬ 1/4 Mile Buffer
- ▬▬▬ Sidewalks
- Network Buffers**
  - ▬▬▬ 1/4 Mile
  - ▬▬▬ 1/2 Mile
  - ▬▬▬ 1 Mile
  - ▬▬▬ 2 Miles

# INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



## Infrastructure Recommendations

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# INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

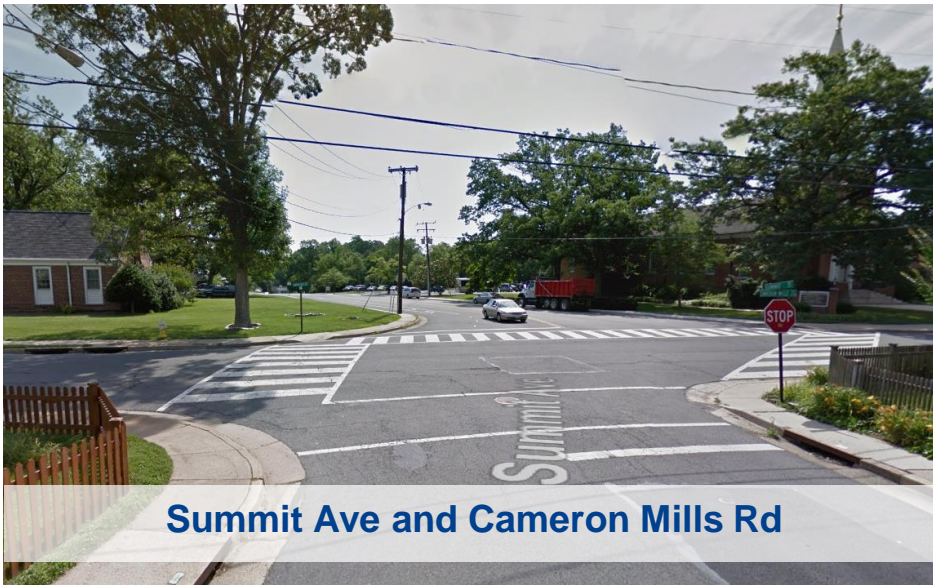
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
1	Curb ramps not ADA-compliant due to lack of tactile warning strip and landing pad.	Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA-compliance.	Short
	Crosswalk faded and not high visibility.	Upgrade crosswalk to high visibility.	Short
2	Curb ramps not ADA-compliant due to lack of tactile warning strip and landing pad.	Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA-compliance.	Short
	Crosswalk faded and not high visibility.	Upgrade crosswalk to high visibility.	Short
3	No sidewalk between Taylor Ave and front entrance so students must traverse through parking lot.	Add decorative path through parking lot to demarcate a pedestrian-zone.	Short
4	Despite lack of curb ramps and crosswalks, pedestrians cross Monticello Blvd to cut through church parking lot.	Install crosswalk and ADA-compliant curb ramps across Monticello Blvd.	Short
	Monticello Blvd is over 50' wide.	Install curb extensions or a crossing island to shorten crossing distances.	Medium
5	Stop signs are difficult to see due to wide intersection and sign placement.	Move stop sign on NE corner to more visible location or add flashing red light and yellow light to intersection to more clearly delineate stopping responsibilities. A light at this intersection would be similar to one block south at Cameron Mills Rd and Virginia Ave.	Medium

\* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years

# INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



**Signal at Virginia Ave and Cameron Mills Rd**



**Summit Ave and Cameron Mills Rd**

# INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Missing sidewalk connection in parking lot



Cameron Mills Rd & Virginia Ave



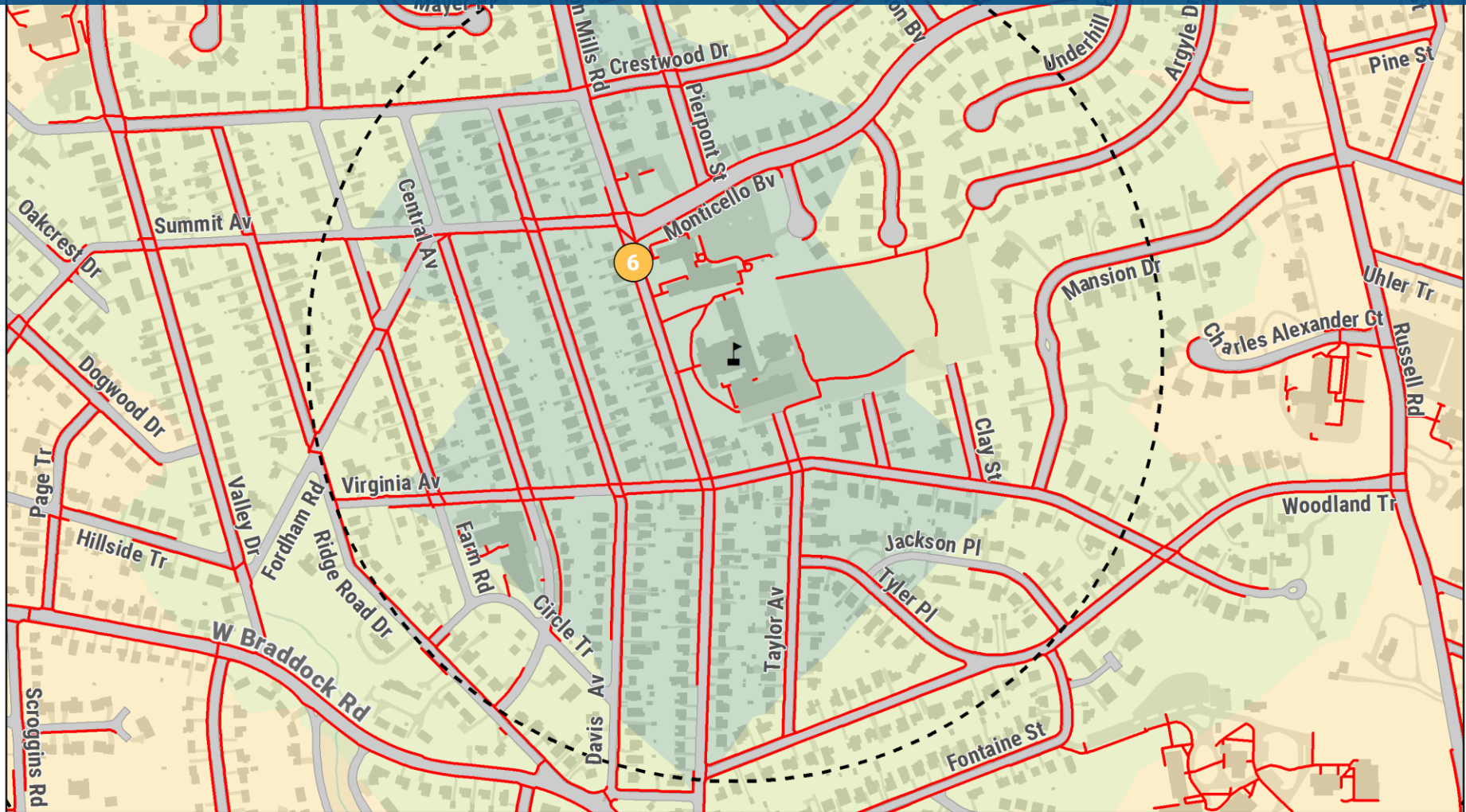
Monticello Ave & Pierpont St



# INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



# SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE



## Infrastructure Recommendations

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 Alexandria, Virginia

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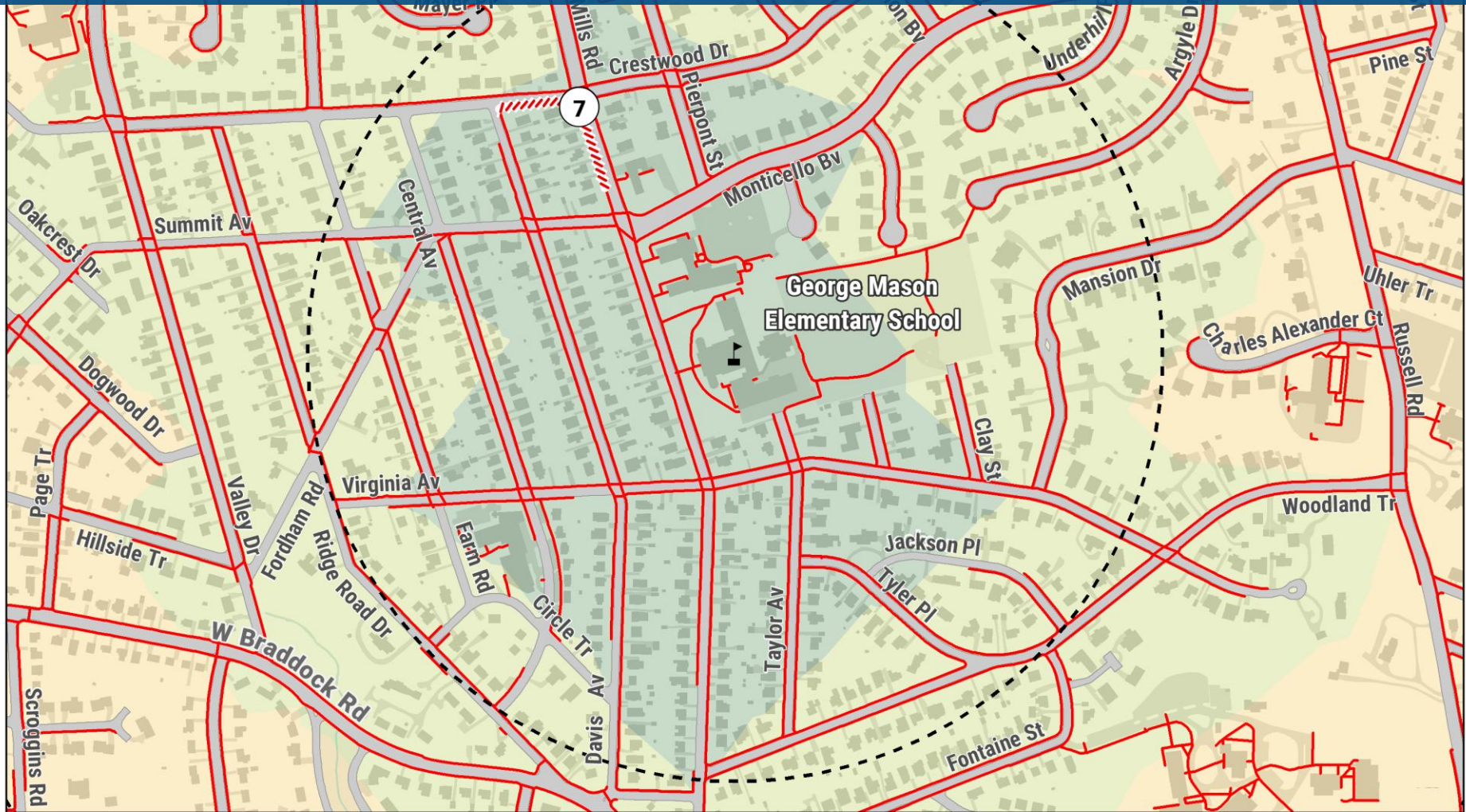
# SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
6	Speed limit signage and school zone signage are missing on southbound Cameron Mills Rd.	Install flashing school zone signage and speed limit signage on southbound Cameron Mills Rd.	Short
	School zone signage lacks flashing beacon on northbound Cameron Mills Rd.	Upgrade northbound school zone speed limit signage to include a flashing beacon.	Short

\* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



## Infrastructure Recommendations

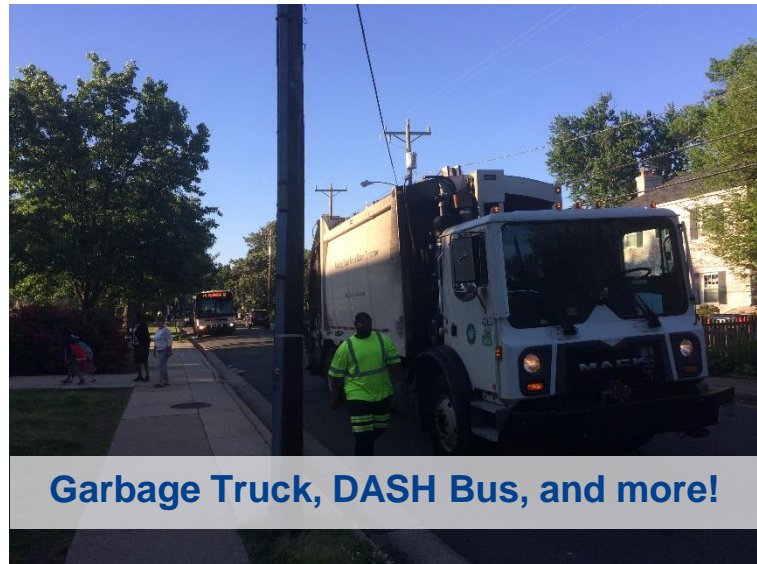
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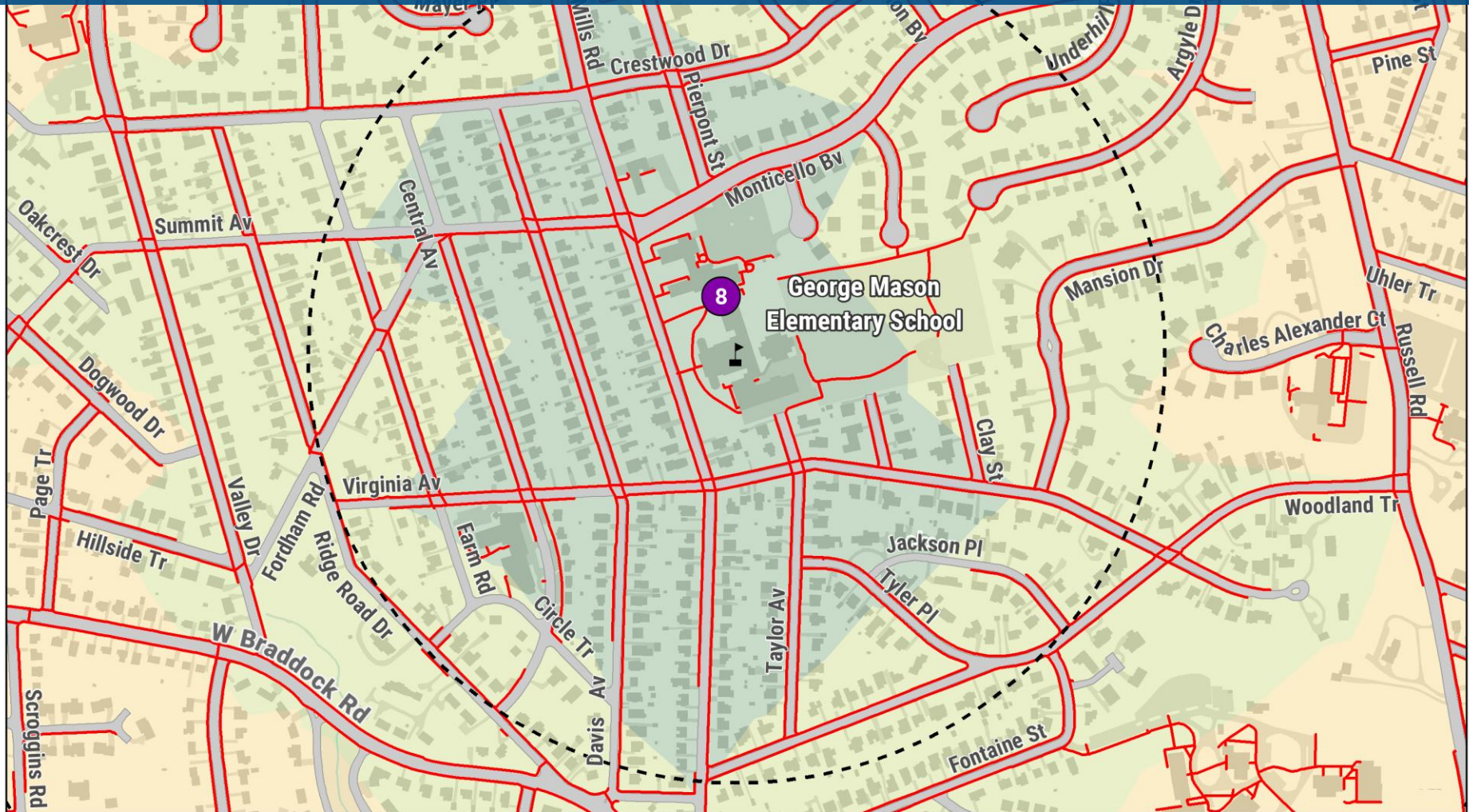
# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
7	Lack of sidewalk on west side of Cameron Mills Rd between Summit Ave and Crestwood Dr.	Install sidewalk.	Medium

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# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



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 Alexandria, Virginia

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# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
8	Insufficient bike parking for the 35+ students who regularly bike to school according to student travel tallies.	Install additional inverted U bike racks (15+) in the rear of the school as well as at the front entrance to meet bike parking demand.	Short

\* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



**Bike racks at rear of school**

# PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

# EDUCATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Integrate pedestrian and bicycle safety education into the school curriculum.		●
Conduct a bicycle rodeo to teach the skills and precautions to ride a bike safely.		●
Incorporate information about walking and bicycling to school in communications with parents.	●	
Provide parents and guardians with safe driving information that stresses the importance of driving safely in school zones and being alert for pedestrians and bicyclists during arrival and dismissal.	●	



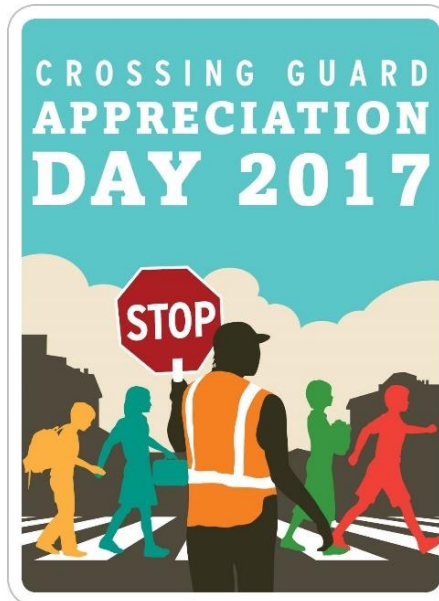
# ENCOURAGEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Participate in International Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day.		•
Help organize and support walking schools buses.		•
Help organize and support bike trains.		•
Establish a frequent walker / bicyclist program.	•	



# ENFORCEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Establish a driver pledge program.		●
Celebrate Virginia Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.		●
Work with the police department to provide periodic parking and traffic enforcement near the school.		●



# EVALUATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing*	Start New
Conduct Student Travel Tallies to get baseline data for student travel patterns.	●	
Administer Parent Surveys to collect information on parents' attitudes towards walking and bicycling and reasons why they may or may not allow their children to walk or bike to school.	●	

*\*Travel Tallies were last collected in the fall of 2016 and Parent Surveys were conducted in the fall of 2016 at George Mason Elementary School. Up to date information is required to monitor program success and apply for federal SRTS funding.*

